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**(54) BIOCHIP AND METHOD OF USING BIOCHIP**

**BIOCHIP UND VERFAHREN ZUR VERWENDUNG DES BIOCHIPS**

**BIOPUCE ET PROCEDE D'UTILISATION DE LA BIOPUCE**

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## Description

### TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a biochip having a plurality of biopolymer spots arranged thereon such as probe DNAs that specifically hybridize with a specific DNA or protein.

### BACKGROUND ART

[0002] In the biochemistry research of genes or the like, conventionally and presently, biochips have been employed which are made from an immobilization support such as glass or a nylon or nitrocellulose membrane spotted with biopolymers such as DNA or protein in a high-dense pattern. Figure 2 is a schematic view of a conventional biochip. The biochip 20 is provided with an immobilization substrate 21 whose surface is spotted with various types of DNAs 22 in a predetermined pattern. Since the shapes of biochips 20 are identical, there is no way of identifying each biochip by its appearance, nor can the types of the spotted DNAs be identified. Therefore, biochips have been managed by writing an identification number 23 or by providing a barcode on the corner of the biochip 20. In this case, the biochips are managed by leaving a note of information of what kind of DNAs are spotted on which locations on a biochip with a particular identification number or barcode.

[0003] According to the above-described method, the biochip may be identified by using two pieces of information written on separate components. However since academic information such as what kinds of nucleic acid sequences of DNAs are spotted on the chip has to be managed as another piece of information, it is often mistakenly used during the experiment.

[0004] The present invention aims at solving such problems of conventional technique, and provides a biochip whose information can unitarily be managed and provides a method for using the biochip.

### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0005] According to the present invention, the above-described aim is accomplished by integrating a memory into a biochip so as to store information such as types, amounts and spotting locations of spotted DNAs. This biochip allows the entire information of the biochip (e.g., what kind of DNAs are spotted on which locations of the biochip, and when, by whom and in what kind of experiment the biochip was used) to unitarily be managed.

[0006] Specifically, the biochip of the invention is provided with a surface on which a plurality of biopolymers are spotted in a predetermined pattern, and a storage medium for storing information of the spotted biopolymers.

[0007] The biochip according to the present invention is provided with a surface spotted with a plurality of bi-

opolymers such as DNAs and proteins in a predetermined pattern, and a storage medium for storing information of the biopolymers. The DNAs that are spotted on the biochip may be a plurality of probe DNAs or DNAs from individuals, which are used for genetic diagnosis or gene expression analysis.

[0008] The component with the biopolymer-spotted surface and the storage medium may be detachable from each other or they may be formed integrally. Preferably, the storage medium is a semiconductor memory capable of reading/writing information in a non-contact state.

[0009] The storage medium may be stored with information of the spotting locations on the surface of the biochip in relation to information of the biopolymers spotted on the spotting locations. The information of the spotting locations may be represented, for example, by sequential numbers of the patterned spot, or coordinates representing the spotting locations. The information of the biopolymers to be stored may be, for example, information of nucleotide sequences of the DNAs, genetic diseases relative to the DNAs, genes relative to the DNAs, and the amounts of spots.

[0010] The biochip having the storage medium of the invention is used as follows. A plurality of biopolymers are spotted onto the surface of the biochip in a predetermined pattern. The storage medium is written with information of the spotting locations as well as information of the biopolymers (e.g., DNA nucleotide sequences) spotted on the spotting locations. The information may be written to the storage medium every time when the biopolymers are spotted, or may be written afterwards at one time.

[0011] The biochip of the invention whose surface is spotted with a plurality of biopolymers in a predetermined pattern, and which is provided with a storage medium for storing information of the spotting locations in relation to the information of the biopolymers spotted on the spotting locations, is used as follows. A sample is allowed to contact with the biochip; a spotting location that hybridized with the sample is detected by utilizing fluorescence from a fluorescent label; the database in the storage medium is searched for information of the sample-hybridized biopolymer based on the detected hybridized spotting location; and the result is displayed.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

#### [0012]

Figure 1 is a schematic view showing an exemplary biochip of the invention;

Figure 2 is a schematic view showing a conventional biochip;

Figure 3 is a schematic view showing another exemplary biochip of the invention;

Figure 4 is a schematic view showing yet another exemplary biochip of the invention;

Figure 5 is a schematic diagram showing an example of information to be stored in the storage medium attached to the biochip;

Figure 6 is a view for illustrating the process for producing the biochip;

Figure 7 is a view for illustrating a step for inspecting the biochip;

Figure 8 is a view for illustrating hybridization process using the biochip of the invention;

Figure 9 is a view for illustrating process for reading the biochip of the invention;

Figure 10 is a view showing an example of a screen for displaying results obtained with the biochip;

Figure 11 is a view showing another example of a screen for displaying results obtained with the biochip;

Figure 12 is a diagram showing processes of reading and analyzing biochip image/memory information; and

Figure 13 is a flow chart for illustrating processes of reading and analyzing biochip image/memory information.

#### BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0013] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the drawings.

[0014] Figure 1 is a schematic view showing an exemplary biochip of the invention. The exemplary biochip 10 is provided with an immobilization substrate 11 (such as a glass, nylon or nitrocellulose membrane) and a storage medium 13, the substrate 11 being spotted with biopolymers 12 (such as DNAs or proteins) at about 10,000/cm<sup>2</sup>. The surface of the storage medium 13 needs to be covered with plastic, glass or the like or otherwise the storage medium 13 may be exposed, together with the biopolymers 12, to a sample solution upon hybridization. The biochip 10 is made, for example, with a semiconductor memory support (such as a silicon wafer) as the immobilization substrate 11; a semiconductor memory formed on part of the support as the storage medium 13, the top of the memory being covered with a resin or the like; and biopolymers 12 such as DNAs directly spotted onto the remaining surface of the silicon support. This approach allows minimization of the biochip.

[0015] Figure 3 is a schematic view showing another

example of the biochip of the invention. This exemplary biochip 30 includes a case 34 and a chip 31 whose surface is spotted with biopolymers 32 such as DNAs. The case 34 has a storage medium 33a imbedded therein, and has a cavity 35 for accommodating the chip 31. The storage medium 33a is an IC memory which is connected to a looped antenna 33b which is also imbedded in the case 34, thereby forming a non-contact storage means 33.

[0016] The non-contact storage means 33 receives an electromagnetic wave sent from a reader/writer located close to the biochip 30 via the antenna 33b. An electromotive force generated by electromagnetic induction is used as electric power for data communication to write/read information to/from the storage medium 33b. The non-contact storage means 30 reads/writes information in a non-contact state without requiring an externally exposed terminal and thus is completely enclosed and isolated from the external environment. Accordingly, the non-contact storage means 33 is preferable as a memory for a biochip that is exposed to a reagent or a sample solution.

[0017] The biochip 30 shown in Figure 3 is used generally as follows. The process for spotting biopolymers onto the biochip 30 is conducted with only the chip 31 separated from the case 34. Then, the chip 31 is fit into the cavity 35 of the case 34 to form an integral body. The integrated biochip 30 is subjected to a later-described inspection step shown in Figure 7 to write inspection information to the memory medium 33a of the non-contact storage means 33. Then, the chip 31 is separated from the case 33 and immersed into a hybridization solution to perform a later-described hybridization reaction step shown in Figure 8. After the hybridization reaction, the chip 31 is again assembled with the case 34 to perform a later-described reading process shown in Figure 9. Data obtained through the reading process is stored into the storage medium 33a of the non-contact storage means 33.

[0018] According to the biochip 30 of a system shown in Figure 3, the case 34 provided with the non-contact storage means 33 is not exposed to a solution during the hybridization reaction. Accordingly, there is less limitation as to the material used for the case 34. Since the case 34 is not exposed to a solution, a contact-type storage means whose terminals and the like are exposed above the surface of the case may be used instead of the non-contact storage means 33. The case 34 may be reused by deleting the stored data in the storage medium 33a.

[0019] Figure 4 is a schematic view showing another example of a biochip of the invention. This exemplary biochip 40 is produced by: partially forming a cavity in an immobilization substrate 41 (such as glass or plastic) by an etching process or the like; placing a non-contact storage means 43 made from a looped antenna 43b and a storage medium 43a connected thereto; and imbedding the storage medium 43a with a resin or the like.

The surface of the immobilization substrate **41** is spotted with biopolymers **42** such as DNAs in a predetermined pattern. The biochip of such a system has a simple mechanism as compared to the biochip shown in Figure **3**. Since the storage medium is integrally imbedded in the material to be spotted with the biopolymers, the entire biochip may be minimized.

[0020] Figure **5** is a diagram showing an example of information to be stored in a storage medium for a single biochip. The information to be stored include general information of the biochip such as a serial number, a fabrication lot number, date/time of preparation, the number of spots on the biochip, and other additional chip information, as well as information of respective spots on the biochip. The information of respective spots on the biochip include, for example, spot numbers, X-Y-coordinates on the biochip, spotting conditions such as amount and time of spotting, and additional information such as names and functions of the spotted DNAs or proteins. The spot numbers are sequentially provided in accordance with the order of spotting. The X-Y coordinates are represented, for example, while the origin is at the upper left corner of the biochip. When the biochip is used for DNA diagnosis, information of an individual and information usually written in a clinical record may also be stored.

[0021] A method for managing information in the chip will be described with reference to Figures **6** to **9**. Figure **6** is a view for illustrating process for producing the biochip. A microplate **61** has various biopolymers (for example, sample DNAs **62** having known nucleotide sequences) placed at known respective locations. Under the control of a drive controller **65** controlled by a computer **66**, a pin **64** is transferred to a predetermined location on the microplate **61** with an X-Y driver **63** and made to contact at the tip thereof with the DNA at that location. The pin **64** is again transferred to a predetermined location on the biochip **1** to spot the DNA onto the surface of the chip, thereby forming a DNA spot **2** on the biochip **1**. By repeating this action, each sample DNA **62** on the microplate **61** will be spotted onto the biochip **1** in a predetermined pattern. The biochip **1** is provided with a memory **3**.

[0022] The computer **66** commands a reader/writer **67** to write to the memory **3**, spot numbers, spotting locations, nucleic acid sequences of the sample DNAs **62** applied to the spotting locations, name of the genes, the number and location of the microplate **61** and preparation date of the biochip **1**, for example, as in a format shown in Figure **5**. The reader/writer **67** is preferably of a non-contact type, but may be a contact-type for biochips such as one shown in Figure **3**. The information may be written with the reader/writer **67** one at a time synchronous with the spotting operation or at one time after completing the entire spotting manipulation.

[0023] Figure **7** is a view for illustrating a step for inspecting the biochip. In this step, the biochip **1** produced through the process shown in Figure **6** is subjected to

an inspection of, for example, whether the DNAs are spotted appropriately onto all of the spotting locations **2**. The inspection results are written to the memory **3** of the biochip.

[0024] An image of the spot arrangement on the biochip **1** is taken with an image pick-up camera **71** such as a CCD camera and the image data is transferred to the computer **66** via a reading controller **72**. The computer **66** analyzes the image data of the spot arrangement to detect defective spots where an amount of spotted DNA is inadequate. All of the sample DNAs **62** on the microplate **61** may be provided with a fluorescent material such as FITC (fluorescein isothiocyanate), in which case spot points **2** may be irradiated with excitation light from an argon ion laser or the like, so as to detect defective spots based on the presence and absence of the fluorescent light from the fluorescent material at each spotting location. The fluorescent intensity from each spot may also be measured so as to detect the amount of DNA spotted onto each spot. The spot number of the defective spot, the amount of DNA spotted onto each spot may be written to the memory **3** with the reader/writer **67** under the control of the computer **66**.

[0025] After the inspection step shown in Figure **7**, the DNA of the defective spot may be spotted again by the spotting step shown in Figure **6**. In this case, the location to be spotted again may be the same as the location found to be defective or may be at an alternative location different from the first spotting location. Furthermore, instead of directly taking the image of the spot arrangement on the biochip, it may be taken via a phase contrast microscope.

[0026] Figure **8** is a view for illustrating a hybridization process using the biochip of the invention. As shown in the figure, the biochip **1** provided with the storage medium **3** and the biopolymers **2** such as DNAs, together with fluorescent-labeled sample DNA **82**, is placed into a hybridization solution **81** for hybridization. When there is a complementary DNA sequence between the DNA **2** spotted on the biochip **1** and the sample DNA **82**, the DNAs bind to each other and form a duplex structure on the spot.

[0027] Figure **9** is a view for illustrating the reading and analyzing processes of the biochip of the invention. The DNA of the spot **2** on the biochip **1** which has bound with the sample DNA is detected by radiating excitation light to the spots **2** on the biochip **1** and reading the fluorescence emitted from the spot with an optical sensor (such as a CCD **71**). The data read with the optical sensor is transferred to the computer **66** via the reading controller **72**. The computer **66** uses information of the fluorescence location on the biochip **1** read with the optical sensor, and information of the spot read from the memory **3** of the biochip **1** using the reader/writer **67**, thereby deriving information of the sample DNA on the biochip that hybridized with the DNA. Specifically, from the results read with the optical sensor, the information in the

memory 3 corresponding to the DNA on the biochip 1 which is suspected to have hybridized is output to the display of the computer 66.

[0028] The data is normalized based on the difference between the data of the amount of the DNA of the spot stored in the memory 3 and the amount of the DNA that hybridized obtained with the optical sensor. The results are written to the memory 3 with the reader/writer 67. Accordingly, the information can unitarily be managed. In addition, quantitative analysis and expression level analysis are also possible.

[0029] Figures 10 and 11 are views showing exemplary screens displaying analysis results obtained with the biochip as described with reference to Figure 9. The exemplary screen shown in Figure 10 displays fluorescent intensity image of the biochip read with the optical sensor. When the operator points the image of the spot that (s)he wants to know in detail (e.g., with a mouse cursor), the additional information stored in the memory will be read out with the reader/writer 67 and displayed on the screen.

[0030] The exemplary screen shown in Figure 11 displays the analysis results in a list format. Referring to Figure 11, identification and additional information of the biochip, information of each spot and the results of the hybridization reaction are displayed. The hybridization reaction results are shown as O for those that went through hybridization, or X for those that did not cause hybridization. Although information of all of the spots is displayed according to this example, the results may be displayed, after an appropriate filtering process, for example, with a list of only the spots that went through hybridization. The screens shown in Figures 10 and 11 may alternately be displayed from one another.

[0031] Figure 12 is a diagram illustrating a series of processes for using the biochip. A biochip image/memory information reading program 90 loaded into the computer 66 is initiated as instructed via an input device such as a keyboard 101. An image reading module 91 of the biochip image/memory information reading program 90 loaded into the computer 66 controls a reading controller 72 of a biochip reader 70 and reads the fluorescent intensities of the spots 2 on the biochip 1 with an optical sensor such as a CCD 71. The image data read out is transferred from the reading controller 72 to the computer 66. The transferred image data is subjected to noise elimination and peak recognition processes with a noise filtering module 92 and an image peak recognizing module 93, respectively, thereby determining the peak coordinates and intensity of the fluorescence at each spot.

[0032] Then, the memory information reading module 94 instructs the biochip reader 70 to read spot information stored in the memory 3 on the biochip 1. The spot information read out is transferred to the computer 66. An image/memory information corresponding module 95 corresponds the spot information with information of the image data, peak coordinates and fluorescent inten-

sity. An image/memory information screen displaying module 96 displays the corresponded image/memory information on an RGB display 102. An image/memory information storing module 97 stores the image/memory information in a storage medium 110 such as a hard disk device 111, a floppy disk device 112 or the biochip 1. Each of the modules shown in Figure 12 may be realized by a software program.

[0033] Figure 13 is a flow chart for illustrating processes of reading and analyzing biochip image/memory information. The reading device and the like are initialized, followed by chip image reading process (S11) for reading fluorescent intensities of spots 2 on the biochip 1 with the optical sensor such as the CCD 71; process (S12) for reading spot information stored in memory 3 of the biochip 1; process (S13) for recognizing peak coordinates and peak intensities of the fluorescence of the spots of the chip image; and process (S14) for corresponding the spot peak information obtained from the chip image and the spot information stored in the memory. The information obtained through such a series of process, according to the selected display format at S15, is subjected to process for displaying the chip image and information of a spot at a cursor point (S16) or to process for displaying the list of spot intensities and spot information (S17). The chip image, spot intensities and spot information are stored in a storage medium such as the hard disc device 111, the floppy disc device 112 or the biochip 1. Thus, a terminating process terminates the reading/analyzing process of the biochip image/memory information.

[0034] The biochip of the invention provided with a memory allows unitary management of information by storing data of, for example, a sample DNA and experimental environment used for the biochip, as well as the results of an analysis or the like in the memory. Accordingly, an experimental error can be avoided. Moreover, accurate experimental results can be obtained if information of an amount of each of the DNAs on the chip is stored in the memory in advance such that the results are obtained based on the difference from the amount of DNA upon chip reading after the hybridization experiment or the like. In the case where the results of the analysis are managed as a database, the information may directly be read from the memory so that information may be managed in a facilitated manner.

## INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION

[0035] According to the present invention, unitary management of information is realized by storing information of a biochip in the biochip itself, thereby preventing errors and realizing rapid and accurate process.

## Claims

1. A biochip comprising

a surface spotted with a plurality of biopolymers in a predetermined pattern,

a storage medium for storing information of the biopolymers to be spotted, and

a looped antenna,

the storage medium being an IC memory connected to the looped antenna, the storage medium thereby being capable of reading/writing information in a non-contact state, the biochip having a plurality of biopolymers spotted thereon, wherein the storage medium stores information of the spot locations, on the identity of the biopolymers spotted on each spot location and on the amount of biopolymers spotted on each spot location.

2. The biochip according to claim 1, wherein a member provided with the surface and the storage medium are detachable, from each other.

3. The biochip according to claim 1, wherein a member provided with the surface and the storage medium are formed integrally.

4. The biochip according to any of the foregoing claims, having about 10,000 spots/cm<sup>2</sup>.

5. A method of manufacturing a biochip according to any of the foregoing claims, comprising the steps:

- spotting a plurality of biopolymers on a surface of the biochip in a predetermined pattern,
- writing information of the spot locations to the storage medium in relation to the information of biopolymers spotted on the spot locations.

6. Use of a biochip manufactured according to claim 5, comprising the steps

- applying a sample to the biochip,
- detecting a spot location where hybridization has occurred,
- searching the storage medium for information on the biopolymer that has hybridized, the search being based on information about the spot location where hybridization has occurred,
- displaying the information on the biopolymer that has hybridized.

#### Patentansprüche

1. Biochip, umfassend

eine Oberfläche, die mit einer Vielzahl von Bio-

polymeren in einem vorbestimmten Muster betupft ist,

ein Speichermedium zum Speichern von Information im Hinblick auf die aufzutupfenden Biopolymere, und

eine schleifenförmigen Antenne,

wobei das Speichermedium ein IC-Speicher ist, der mit der schleifenförmigen Antenne verbunden ist, wobei das Speichermedium dadurch in der Lage ist, Information in einem kontaktlosen Zustand zu lesen/zu schreiben, wobei der Biochip eine Vielzahl von aufgetupften Biopolymeren hat, wobei das Speichermedium Information im Hinblick auf die Tupfenpositionen, im Hinblick auf die Identität der Biopolymere, die auf jeder Tupfenposition aufgetupft sind und im Hinblick auf die Menge der Biopolymere, die an jeder Tupfenposition aufgetupft sind, speichert.

2. Biochip nach Anspruch 1, wobei ein Teil, das mit der Oberfläche bereitgestellt wird, und das Speichermedium voneinander lösbar sind.

3. Biochip nach Anspruch 1, wobei ein Teil, das mit der Oberfläche bereitgestellt wird, und das Speichermedium miteinander integriert gebildet sind.

4. Biochip nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche mit ungefähr 10.000 Tupfen/cm<sup>2</sup>.

5. Verfahren zum Herstellen eines Biochip nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, umfassend die Schritte:

- Auftupfen einer Vielzahl von Biopolymeren auf einer Oberfläche des Biochip in einem vorbestimmten Muster,
- Schreiben von Information auf das Speichermedium über die Tupfenposition in Bezug auf die Information über die Biopolymere, die auf die Tupfenpositionen aufgetupft sind.

6. Verwendung eines Biochip, hergestellt nach Anspruch 5, umfassend die Schritte

- Aufbringen einer Probe auf den Biochip,
- Nachweisen einer Tupfenposition, an der eine Hybridisierung stattgefunden hat,
- Suchen in dem Speichermedium nach Information im Hinblick auf das Biopolymer, das hybridisiert hat, wobei die Suche auf Information über die Tupfenposition, an der eine Hybridisierung stattgefunden hat, beruht,
- Darstellen der Information über das Biopolymer, das hybridisiert hat.

## Revendications

mère qui s'est hybridé.

### 1. Biopuce comprenant

une surface sur laquelle ont été greffés plu- 5  
sieurs biopolymères selon un agencement pré-  
déterminé,  
une mémoire pour mémoriser des informations  
sur les biopolymères à greffer, et  
une antenne en boucle, 10  
la mémoire étant une mémoire intégrée con-  
nectée à l'antenne en boucle, la mémoire pou-  
vant ainsi lire/écrire des informations dans un  
état sans contact, la biopuce comportant une  
pluralité de biopolymères greffés sur sa surfa- 15  
ce, la mémoire mémorisant des informations  
sur les emplacements de greffage, sur l'identité  
des biopolymères greffés à chaque emplace-  
ment de greffage et sur la quantité de biopoly-  
mères greffés à chaque emplacement de gref- 20  
fage.

2. Biopuce selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle un  
élément comportant ladite surface et la mémoire  
sont séparables l'un de l'autre. 25

3. Biopuce selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle un  
élément comportant ladite surface et la mémoire  
sont solidaires. 30

4. Biopuce selon l'une quelconque des revendications  
précédentes, comportant environ 10000 sites de  
greffage/cm<sup>2</sup>.

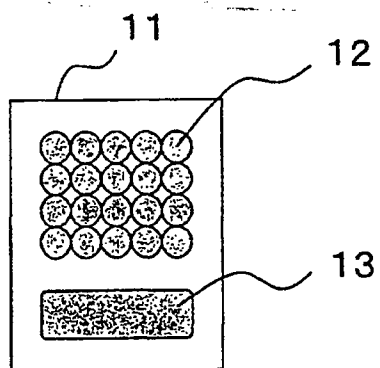
5. Procédé de fabrication d'une biopuce selon l'une 35  
quelconque des revendications précédentes, com-  
prenant les étapes suivantes :

- greffer une pluralité de biopolymères sur une  
surface de la biopuce selon un agencement 40  
prédéterminé,
- écrire des informations sur les emplacements  
de greffage dans la mémoire en relation avec  
les informations concernant des biopolymères  
greffés sur les emplacements de greffage. 45

6. Utilisation d'une biopuce fabriquée selon la reven-  
dication 5, comprenant les étapes suivantes :

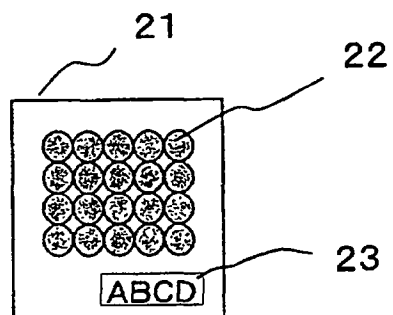
- appliquer un échantillon sur la biopuce, 50
- détecter un emplacement de greffage où une  
hybridation a eu lieu,
- rechercher dans la mémoire des informations  
sur le biopolymère qui s'est hybridé, la recher- 55  
che étant fondée sur des informations concer-  
nant l'emplacement de greffage où une hybri-  
dation a eu lieu,
- afficher les informations concernant le biopoly-

FIG.1



10

FIG.2



20



FIG.3

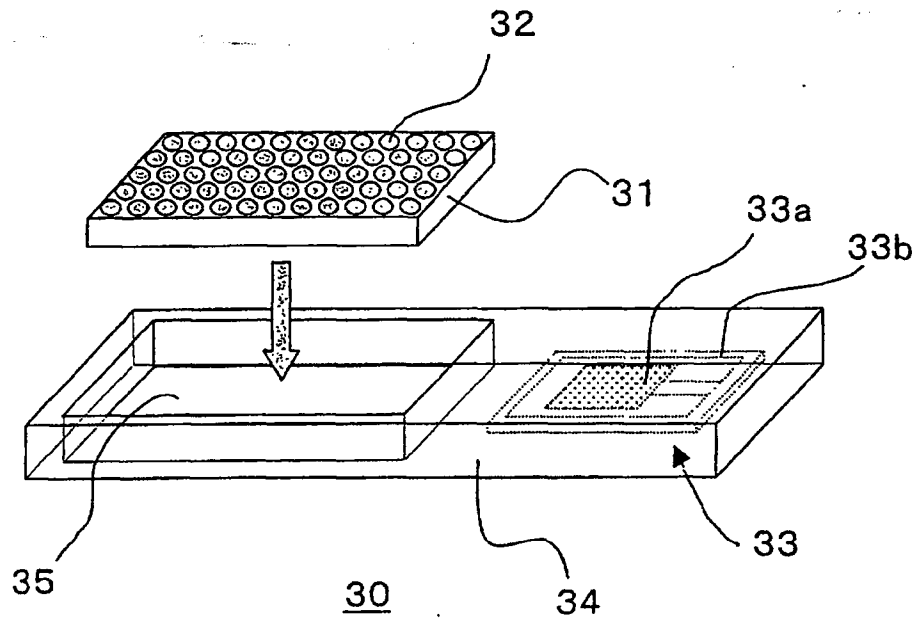


FIG.4

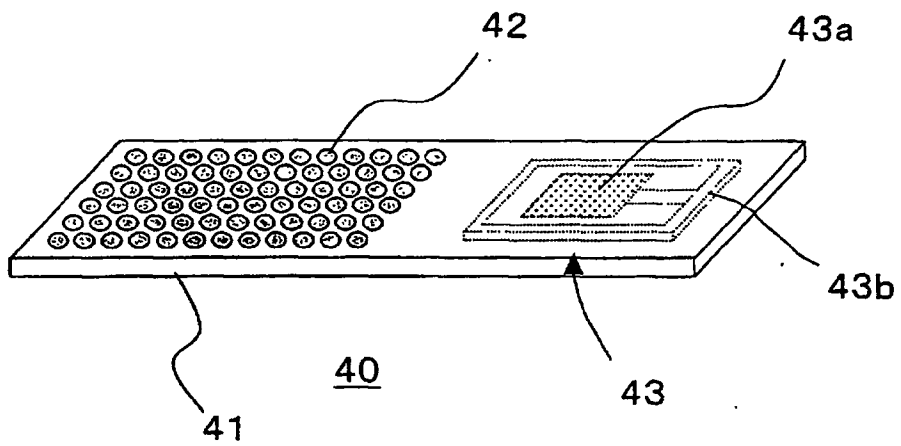


FIG.5

Chip number			
Fabrication lot number			
Date/time of preparation			
Number of spots (n)			
Additional chip information			
Spot No. (1)	Spotting location [coordinates (x1,y1)]	Spotting condition information (1)	Additional spotting information (1)
(2)	[coordinates (x2,y2)]	(2)	(2)
.....	.....	.....	.....
(n)	[coordinates (xn,yn)]	(n)	(n)

FIG.6

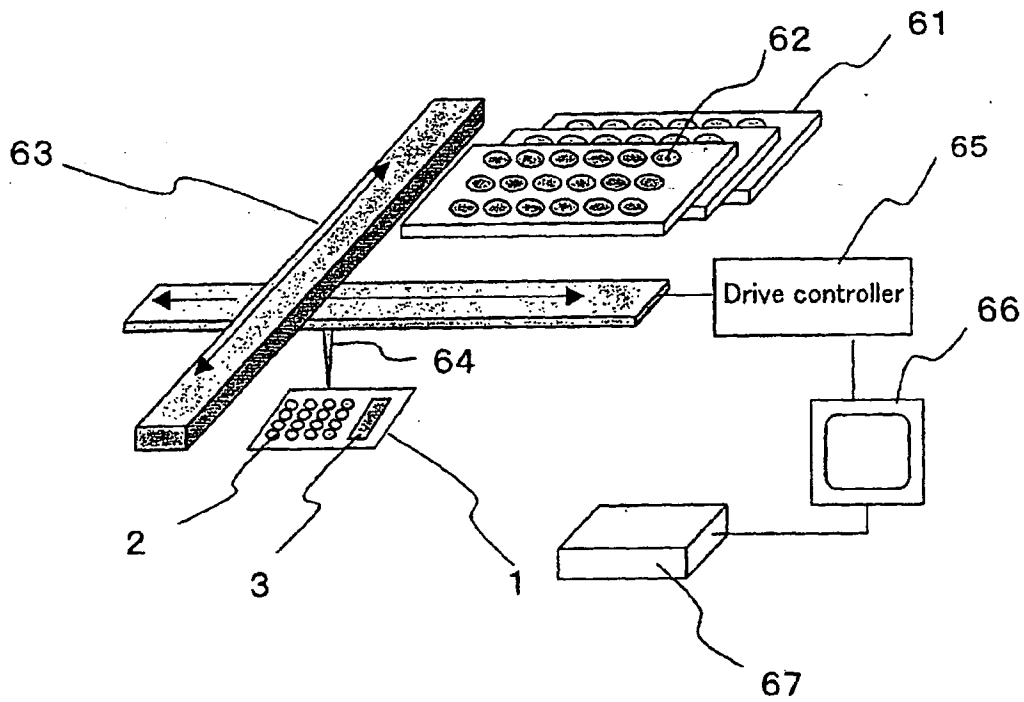


FIG.7

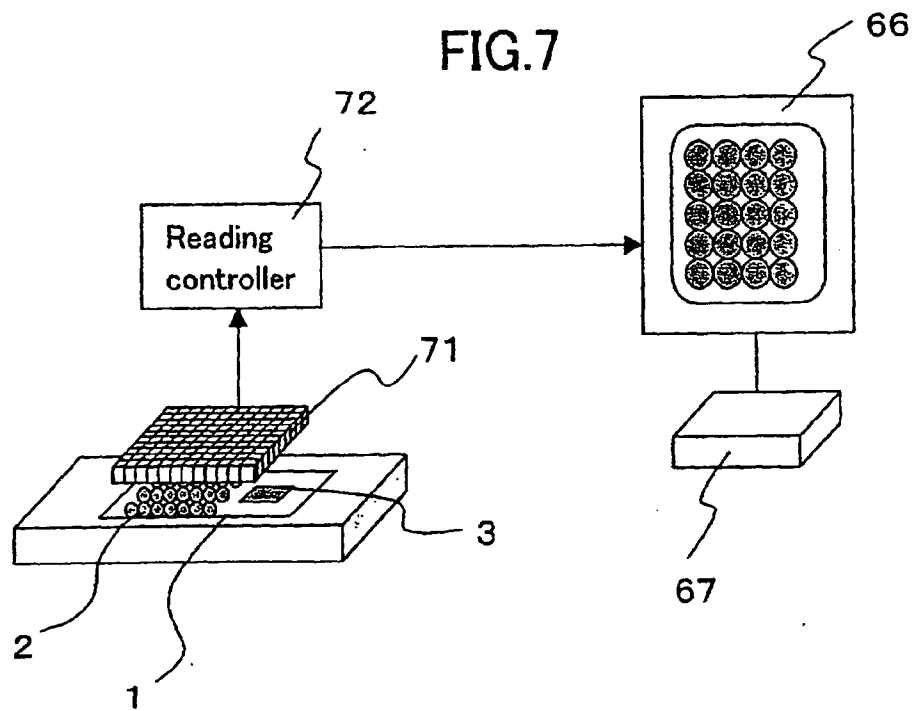


FIG.8

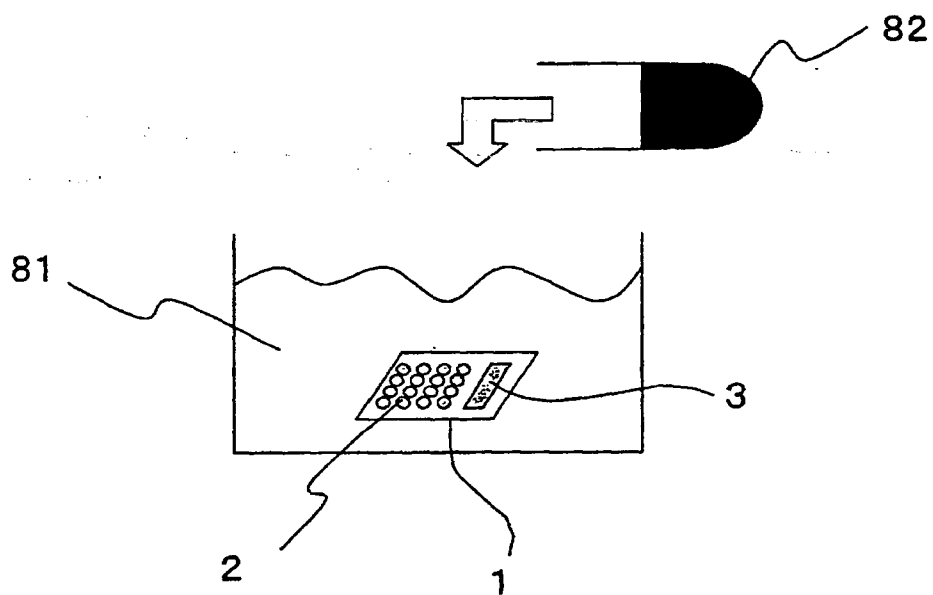


FIG.9

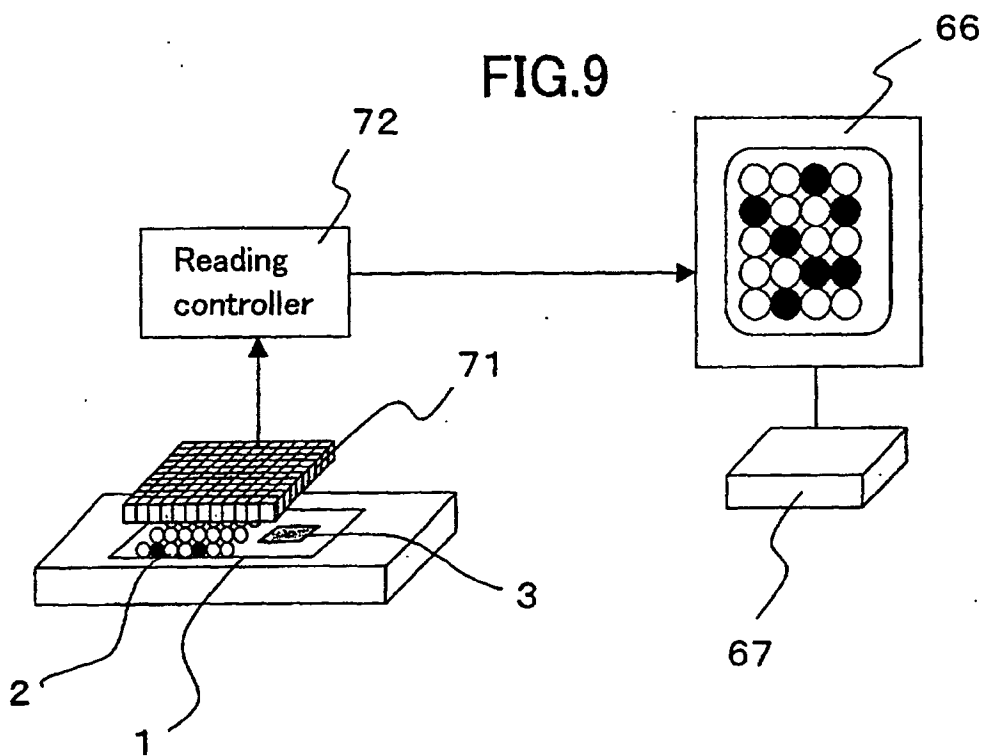


FIG.10

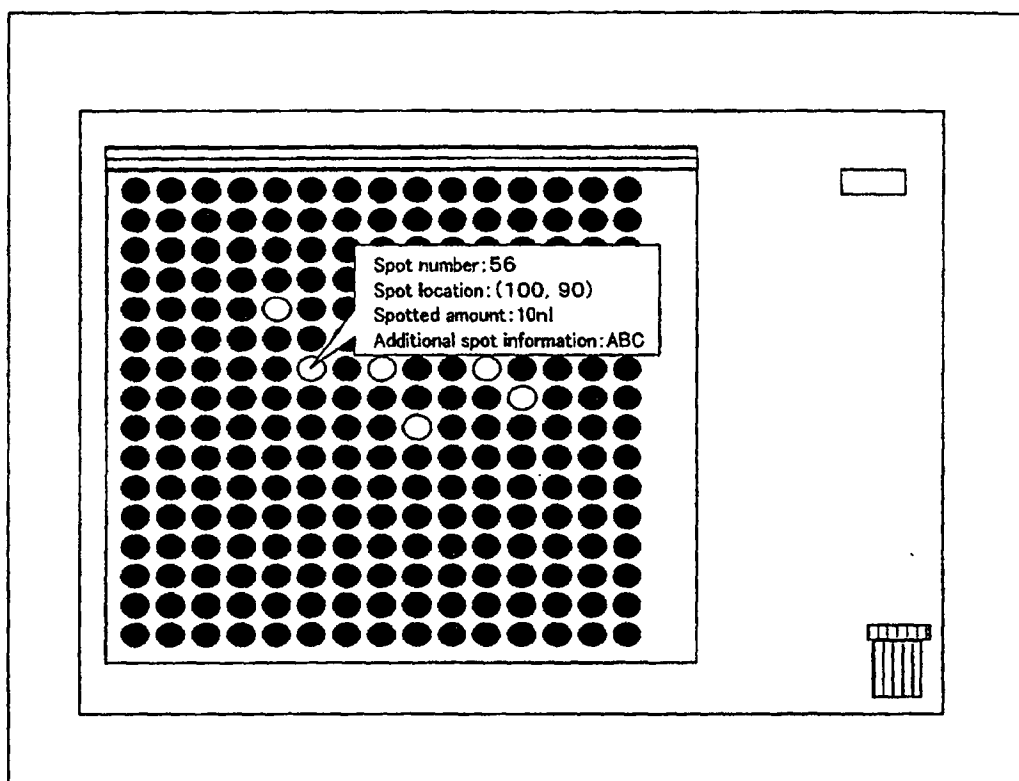


FIG.11

Chip number : 1 0 0 Fabrication lot number : 1 1 1 1 1 Date of preparation : 1998/1/1 Number of spots : 1 0 0 0 0 Comments : ABCDEF				
No.	Name	Spotted amount[nl]	Hybridization results	
000001	AAAA	10	○	
000002	ASASAS	10	○	
000003	ASAS	8	x	
000004	DDDD	7	x	
000005	DEG	10	x	
000006	DE	11	x	
000007	FF	10	x	
000008	EG	4	○	
000009	DE	10	x	
000010	QQQ	11	○	

FIG.12

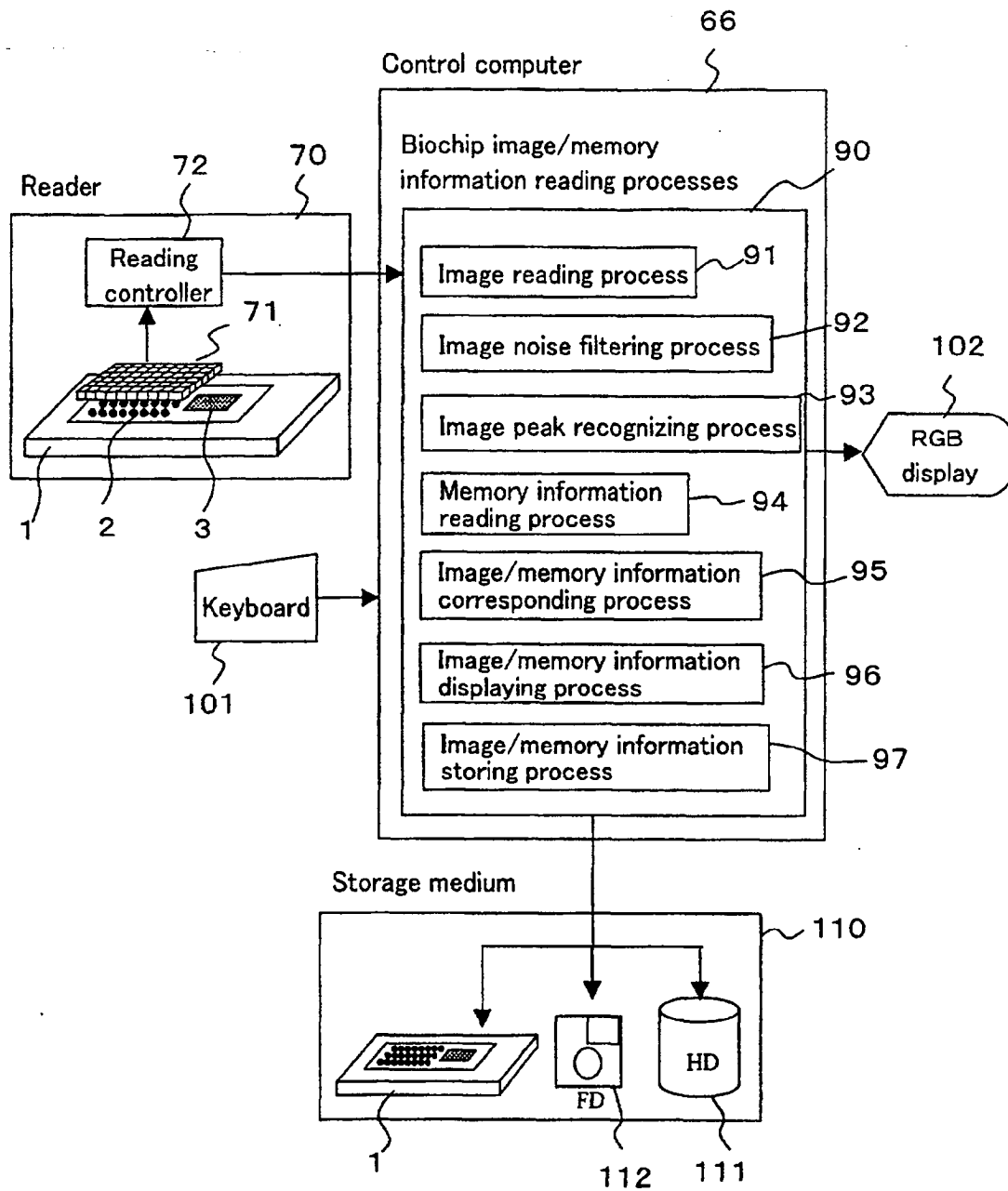


FIG.13

